



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION VII
901 NORTH 5TH STREET
KANSAS CITY, KANSAS 66101

[15 JUL 2003]

OFFICE OF
THE REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. Stephen Mahfood, Director
Missouri Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Dear Mr. Mahfood: :

I am writing to give you an update on the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) schedule for officially designating areas as "attainment" or "nonattainment" for two important air pollutants, ground-level ozone and fine particles. I am following up on letters sent to your Governor on March 5, 2003, for ozone and May 19, 2003, for fine particles (PM_{2.5}). I am also writing to enlist your support in working with the communities in your State to take the necessary steps to reduce air pollution and help protect public health.

Breathing ozone (the primary constituent of smog) and fine particles can cause serious respiratory and cardiovascular effects. Many health studies have correlated increased exposure to fine particles with increases in premature death. In 1997, EPA revised its national ambient air quality standards for these two pollutants. After prevailing in a lengthy court battle, we are now working with States to take the steps necessary to protect the public from these pollutants.

As you know, some important dates are fast approaching. For ground-level ozone, our schedule requires states to make their attainment/nonattainment designation recommendations to EPA by July 15, 2003. (I understand the Missouri recommendation will be submitted immediately following the Air Conservation Commission meeting on July 24, 2003.) The EPA must make its final official designation decisions by April 15, 2004. For the fine particle standards, states are to make these recommendations by February 2004, and the Agency will make its final decisions by December 15, 2004.

Once EPA officially designates an area as not meeting one of these air quality standards, your State will be required to develop and submit to EPA a plan for cleaning up the air in those designated nonattainment areas. These plans will be due no later than three years after the date that an area is designated as nonattainment. The plan for the ozone standard is due in April 2007, and the plan for the fine particle standard is due in December 2007. The level of emission control programs and the dates for achieving clean air in your nonattainment areas will vary depending upon the severity of the problem.

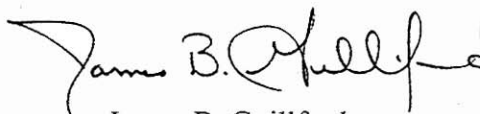
We hope that you will encourage the communities in your State to take early actions to improve their air quality. My staff and I stand ready to help your State and communities identify

RECYCLE A small graphic of a recycling symbol, consisting of three chasing arrows forming a triangle.

pollution control measures that could be implemented to help clean the air. We will also work with other affected states and tribes to take necessary steps to reduce air pollution.

Thank you for your continued leadership on these matters. I look forward to working with you as we clean up the nation's air pollution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James B. Guillford". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a stylized "G".

James B. Guillford
Regional Administrator

cc: James Werner, Director,
MDNR, Air and Land Protection Division
Thomas Wilson, Director,
MDNR, Air Pollution Control Program